

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

22. (Currently amended) A nicotine chewing gum composition having a nicotine release rate inside the mouth which is substantially independent of the chew rate, said composition releasing at least about 25% of nicotine content within about 5 minutes of chewing and a sustained release thereafter such that ~~up to~~ at least about 80% nicotine content is released within about 30 minutes of chewing.

23. (Currently amended) A method of treating smoking addiction comprising administering the chewing gum composition of Claim 22 to a user.

24. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 22, wherein said composition releases at least about 25% of nicotine content within less than 3 minutes of chewing.

25. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 24, wherein said composition releases an initial dose of nicotine content of between about 0.2 and 0.7 milligrams of nicotine.

26. (Previously presented) A nicotine chewing gum composition having an initial nicotine release which achieves a loaded nicotine concentration in a user's blood of between about 2 and 7 nanograms per milliliter of blood within 5 minutes

after chewing begins, and maintains the loaded nicotine concentration in the user's blood for an additional about 30 minutes thereafter.

27. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein the initial nicotine release achieves a loaded nicotine concentration of at least about 5 nanograms per milliliter of blood.

28. (Previously presented) A nicotine chewing gum composition having a nicotine release rate inside the mouth which is substantially independent of the chew rate, said composition releasing at least about 25% of nicotine content within about 5 minutes of chewing and providing a sustained release thereafter such that at least about 60% nicotine content is released within about 30 minutes of chewing.

29. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein said composition releases at least about 25% of nicotine content within less than 3 minutes of chewing.

30. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 29, wherein said composition releases an initial dose of nicotine content of between 0.2 and 0.7 milligrams of nicotine.